

1. Parish: Letheringham

Meaning: Homestead/village of Leodhere's? people (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Loes

Deanery: Loes

Union: Plomesgate

RDC/UDC: (E.Suffolk) Plomesgate RD (1894–1934), Deben RD (1934–1974), Suffolk Coastal DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Framlingham Petty Sessional Division
Framlingham County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,144 acres land, 9 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.
- b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay soils.
- c. Deep fine loam soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Fine loams over clay or sandy soils.
- d. Stoneless clay soils mostly over peat, variably affected by groundwater, flat land, risk of localized flooding.

5. **Types of farming:**

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Potsford Brook forms natural boundary to south and River Deben forms very similar boundary to north and east. Very small compact development. Church situated separately in NW corner by site of Letheringham Abbey. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 8, 1801 – 16, 1851 – 37, 1871 – 38, 1901 – 36, 1951 – 34, 1981 – 29.

8. Communications:

- Roads:** To Hoo, Charsfield, Wickham Market and Easton.
1912 Carrier to Woodbridge on Thursday.
- Rail:** 1912 3 miles Parham station: Wickham Market–Framlingham line, opened 1859, closed for passengers 1952, closed for goods 1965.
- Water:** River Deben.

9. Population:

- 1086 — 43 recorded (includes Domesday vill of Potsford)
1327 — 24 taxpayers paid £2. 9s. 10d. (includes Charsfield)
1524 — 22 taxpayers paid £17. 5s 4d.
1603 — 40 adults
1674 — 10 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 138 inhabitants
1831 — 174 inhabitants
1851 — 206 inhabitants
1871 — 173 inhabitants
1901 — 160 inhabitants
1931 — 138 inhabitants
1951 — 98 inhabitants
1971 — 83 inhabitants
1981 — 82 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Rectory 1891

- 1254 Valued £4
1291 Valued £4. 13s. 4d.
1535 Not recorded
1603 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1831 Curate, stipend £35 p.a. No glebe house. Gross income £24 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Perpetual Curacy of Hoo and rectory of Boulge and Debach.
Vicarage house built 1857.
1891 Consolidated with Hoo. 60 acres glebe.
1912 Joint nett value £100 p.a. 60 acres glebe and residence.
Incumbent also holds and resides in Charsfield.

Patrons:

Mrs S. Reynolds 1831, Church Patronage Society 1891

11. Church St. Mary

(Nave, S. porch, W. tower)

- 1086 Church + 20 acres valued 40d. (see note below)
Norman S. doorway, W. bays of priory church.
c.1300 Nave

14 th cent.	Main structure including tower
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) removed 3 popish inscriptions, destroyed 10 superstitious pictures and order steps leveled.
	S. porch with Dutch style gable 1685.
1750	Chancel removed (parts of which are worked into churchyard wall)
c.1787	Church rebuilt on cruciform plan Said to be a roofless ruin
1789	Restored
1906	Restoration

Note: Portion of this church was part of the Austin Priory

Seats: 70 (1915)

Note: Re. Existence of Separate Church
It is unknown if the Domesday church was that which developed into the Priory Church or was a separate parish church. Suggested site of parish church and churchyard identified with discovery of burials near Old Hall. Suggested date of demolition 17th cent. Further burials and circumstantial evidence of church revealed after gale damage 1987.

11a Other religious institutions

Letheringham Priory Blessed Virgin Mary

Cell of Austin Cannons

	Founded by Sir John Bovile as cell to St. Peters Priory, Ipswich c.1200.
	Consisted of Prior and 3/4 cannons
1291	Valued with property in 19 parishes at £12½ +.
1535	Valued £32. 13s. 4d., dissolved 1537
	Granted to Sir Anthony Wingfield 1539
	Remains: 14/15 th cent. gateway, boundary walls and foundations, part of church.
	Note: Domestic buildings stood on N. side of church, mainly destroyed by fire 1610,
	Site used as stack yard 1912.
	Transcript of Priory accounts – See published Parish Registers p.5–9.

12. Nonconformity etc:

c.1644	Robert Large, curate of Letheringham, Hoo and Charsfield ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous Ministers.
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13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 80 acres held by Haldane under patronage of Harold.
1086	Manor of 80 acres belonging to Geoffrey de Mandeville.
1066	Manor of 60 acres held by 1 free man under patronage.
1086	Manor of 60 acres belonging to Geoffrey de Mandeville.
Domesday vill of Potsford	
1066	Manor of 80 acres held by Wynning under patronage.
1086	Manor of 80 acres belonging to Hervey of Bourges and held by Odo.

Letheringham Manor

1195	William de Glanville owns.
c.1309	William de Bovile owns (linked to Badingham, Wilby and Southolt).
c.1378	Sir Thomas Wingfield owns (linked to Hasketon).
1592	Henry Naunton owns.
1811	Andrew Arcedeckne owns.
1855	Duke of Hamilton and Brandon owns (linked to Gt. Glemham, Easton, Hacheston, Hoo and Kettleburgh).

14. Market/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,626 rental value
1891	£1,416 rateable value
1912	£940 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	A. Arcedeckne, principal owner
1891	Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, sole owners
1912	Trustees of Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, sole owners

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Robert Naunton occupies house with 37 hearths
1679	Robert Naunton and Sir Henry Wingfield
1891	Rev. J.E. Malins KACL

18. Occupations:

1500–1599	1 yeoman
1600–1649	3 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 2 joiners
1650–1699	3 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 spinster, 1 tailor
1831	43 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 8 in domestic service, 1 other

1844 7 farmers, corn miller
1912 Carrier, 7 farmers, basket maker

19. Education:

1891 Children attend school at Hoo

20. Poor relief:

1776 £32. 5s. 6d. spent on poor relief
1803 £49. 15s. 6d. spent on poor relief
1818 £230. spent on poor relief
1830 £171. 5s. spent on poor relief
1832 £192. 6s. spent on poor relief
1834 £204. 6s. spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

Sir Robert Naunton erected almshouses for 'his decayed servants'
1635. Disappeared at date unknown. Said to have been situated close
to Abbey Farm.

Village hall in existence 1935–1950s, disappeared by 1974.

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Wingfield family: Pedigree of Wingfield of Letheringham, Easton and
Wingfield, PSIA Vol. VII, p.57.

25. Other information:

Skeletons found near watermill 1842 and in gravel pit 1873.

Published transcript of Parish Registers 1588–1812.

John Bullard & Sons: tenants of Letheringham Mill, murdered 1698/99 by
Jonas Snell (journeyman) who was hanged at Wickham Market 1699.

'The Lost and Mutilated Memorials of the Bovile and Wingfield families at
Letheringham', by Dr. John Blatchly, PSIA Vol. 33, p.168. Contains
reproductions of paintings of church as it stood c.1765 and 1789.

Pyramid erected in Vicarage Garden, Brandeston believed built to incorporate
monumental remains from Letheringham church 18th cent. survived into 20th
cent. Some pieces in Brandeston church.

Brick Gatehouse 16th cent. near to church, much damaged 1908, still in
existence 1988. See sketch in published Parish Registers p.4.

Letheringham Hall: situated close to mill. Large 10 bay weatherboarded barn.
The Lodge: late 15th cent. timber framed, moated site. Contains 2 carved angle posts which, it has been suggested by DOE, came from the former Shire Hall at Wickham Market. Photograph contained in 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe, plate 30.

'Letheringham Lodge and the Wingfield Relics'. East Anglian Miscellany 1922, p.75.

'Letheringham Lodge'. East Anglian Miscellany 1919, p.72.

The above should not be confused with Letheringham Lodge which is a 20th cent. conversion of former dairy (1920s).

The Abbey: converted and enlarged by Sir Robert Naunton c.1600, partially demolished c.1770. Both wings (visible in pen and ink sketch of 1712) were demolished Main block remains. Recorded as containing 37 hearths 1674. Wainscot panelling transferred to Scotland 1919.

'Letheringham Abbey', East Anglian Miscellany 1919 and 1916, p. 67 and 43 respectively.

'Letheringham Abbey', by E. Farrer, PSIA Vol. XX, p.9.

Old Vicarage: Victorian, alterations 1929 when Georgian front was added and main direction of house turned by 180^o.

Water mill built c.1730, mill garden and grounds open to public c.1970.

Curtis's Grove Wood/Cutters Grove: remnant of ancient coppice woodland.

Deer park created and mentioned on map 1576, disparked 1712. Site covered by plantation 1696 of 64¾ acres.

'Hunting Ground. The Old Park and the Lodge', Letheringham: Deben Valley Place Names 1977, Note D.

The Lodge: believed original site of hunting Lodge near Old Park. Possibly used as dower house 17th cent.

The Drift: Green land from the Lodge to the river, exhibits hedges 400 years old. Letheringham: Deben Valley Place Names 1977.